

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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Inventor :—CHARLES ARTHUR TACEY.



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Devices or Appliances for Use in Education and Recreation of Children.

We, PHILIP & TACEY LIMITED, British Joint Stock Company, of 69 to 79 Fulham High Street, Fulham, London, S.W.6, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement :—

This invention relates to the education and recreation of children, more particularly young children of school age, and aims to facilitate in a simple and interesting manner, and more or less as a game, the teaching of a child to count by numbers and form groups of values in physical bond, and/or to match one colour and/or size of object with another.

Our invention resides in the provision of a plurality of blocks composed of any suitable substance or material, adapted for in-line and non-rotary detachable association one with another and for optional threading on a cord, or the like, each block being hollow and rectangular-sided with rounded or chamfered corners and one end whereof is open, whilst at its opposite end there is formed an apertured spigot which is shaped for entry with a friction fit into the open end of a fellow block, the shoulder created by the formation of said spigot constituting a stop when in abutment against the edges of a fellow block's open end.

Blocks as hereinbefore described may be readily assembled together, as many as required and as many as desired withdrawn one from another, in order to teach a child to count, and also to match colours if the blocks are in different colours.

We will further describe our invention with the aid of the accompanying explanatory drawings, in which :

Fig. 1 illustrates, by perspective views, three dissociated blocks ; and

Fig. 2 shows the blocks detachably but non-rotatably assembled together ;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a block ; and

Fig. 4 is a section, taken as on line X—X, Fig. 3.

All blocks shown are " Plastic " mouldings.

Referring to the drawings, the block *a* is hollow and cube-shaped with rounded or chamfered corners as shown. One end of the block is open and the opposite end is formed with a spigot *a'*, such spigot being adapted to be entered—slid with a friction fit—into the open end of a fellow block, the shoulder *a''* created by the formation of the spigot providing a stop when in abutment against the edges of a fellow block's open end. Said spigot is provided with a central aperture *b* so that a cord, or the like, may be passed through the block, thus permitting association of the blocks in bead-like fashion for storage and transport, without possibility of loss.

It will be clear that blocks according to our invention may be employed in educational and recreational capacities to awaken interest in, stimulate investigation into, and assist the understanding by children of the numerical values of groups of physical and notional objects, the inter-relationship of such values, and the processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, by enabling the user to join or separate two or more of the blocks by simple digital pressure. Additional uses include, inter alia, colour matching, the construction of colour harmonies and patterns in the manner of brick and tile laying, and the sorting of colours into related groups ; the principal advantageous feature of the blocks being to encourage ability of the user to form rows of in-line blocks cohering in rods with or without the employment of wires, cords or laces.

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What we claim is:—

1. For use in the education and recreation of children, a plurality of blocks adapted for in-line and non-rotary detachable association of one with another and for optional threading on a cord, or the like, each block being hollow and rectangular-sided with rounded or chamfered corners, and one end whereof is open, whilst at its opposite end there is formed an apertured spigot which is shaped for entry with a friction fit into the open end of a fellow block, the shoulder created by the formation of said spigot constituting a stop

when in abutment against the edges of a fellow block's open end. 15

2. For use in the education and recreation of children, blocks substantially as hereinbefore described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

JOHN HINDLEY WALKER,
125 High Holborn, London, W.C.1,
and
139 Dale Street, Liverpool 2.
Chartered Patent Agent.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Devices or Appliances for Use in Education and Recreation of Children.

20 We, PHILIP & TAOBY LIMITED, British Joint Stock Company, of 69 to 79 Fulham High Street, Fulham, London, S.W.6, do hereby declare this invention to be described in the following statement:—

25 This invention relates to the education and recreation of children, more particularly young children of school age, and aims to facilitate in a simple and interesting manner and more or less as a game, the teaching of a child to count by numbers and form groups of values in physical bond, and/or to match one colour and/or size of object with another.

30 Broadly, according to our invention, we provide a plurality of block-like units made in any suitable material, e.g. a substance now known as "plastic," and of any appropriate external contour, as, for instance, rectangular and each of which has one end reduced somewhat, such reduced portion being adapted to be entered—slid—into a co-operative i.e. non-reduced opening of the next adjacent block, the shoulder created by the reduction functioning as a stop.

40 Said blocks may be of hollow or solid construction apart from a receiving end adapted to accept the reduction of a succeeding block and the corners may be rounded or chamfered if so desired.

50 Optionally, a central aperture may be provided in the block through which a cord or the like may be passed, thus permitting association of the blocks in bead-like fashion for storage and transport, without possibility of loss.

Block units as described may be readily assembled together, as many as required and as many as desired withdrawn one from another, in order to teach a child to count, and also to match colours, if the blocks are in different colours, and shapes if of differing contours. 60

It will be clear that block units, according to our invention may be employed in educational and recreational capacities to awaken interest in, stimulate investigation into, and assist the understanding by children of the numerical values of groups of physical and notional objects, the inter-relationship of such values, the processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, by enabling the user to join or separate two or more of the blocks by simple digital pressure. Additional uses include, inter alia, colour matching, the construction of colour harmonies and patterns in the manner of brick and tile laying, and the sorting of colours into related groups; the principal advantageous feature of the blocks being to encourage ability of the user to form rows of blocks cohering in rods with or without the employment of wires, cords, or laces. 75 80

JOHN HINDLEY WALKER,
125 High Holborn, London, W.C.1,
and
139 Dale Street, Liverpool 2.
Chartered Patent Agent.

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